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Government of Kerala
2026

Regn.No. KERBIL/2012/45073
dated 05-09-2012 with RNI
Reg No.KL/TV(N)/634/2021-2023

കേരള ഗസറ്റ്
KERALA GAZETTE
അസാധാരണം
EXTRAORDINARY

ആധികാരികമായി പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

വാല്യം 15
Vol. XV

തിരുവനന്തപുരം,
ബുധൻ
Thiruvananthapuram,
Wednesday

2026 മാർച്ച് 04
04th March 2026
1201 കുംഭം 20
20th Kumbham 1201
1947 ഫാൽഗുനം 13
13th Phalguna 1947

നമ്പർ
No.
946

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Forest and Wildlife (D) Department

NOTIFICATION

G.O.(P) No.9/2026/F&WLD

4th March 2026

Thiruvananthapuram.

S. R. O. No. 298/2026

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 64, read with sub-section (4) of section 40 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Central Act 53 of 1972), the Government of Kerala hereby make the following rules further to amend the Kerala Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 1978 issued by notification under G.O.(P)

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No 52/78/AD dated 16th February, 1978 and published as S.R.O.No.542/78 in the Kerala Gazette No.24 dated 13th June, 1978, namely:-

RULES

1. *Short title and commencement*. - (1) These rules may be called the Kerala Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of the Rules.*- In the Kerala Wild Life (Protection) Rules, 1978, in rule 35, for the words and bracket "any animal, animal article or trophy (other than the musk of a musk deer or the horn of a rhinoceros or salted or dried skins derived from an animal specified in Schedule I or Part II of Schedule II to the Act shall make a declaration on or before 30th day of September, 1991", the words, brackets and figures "any animal, animal article or trophy (other than the musk of a musk deer or the horn of a rhinoceros) or salted or dried skins derived from an animal specified in Schedule I to the Act shall make a declaration within forty-five days from the date of commencement of the Kerala Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2026" shall be substituted.

By order of the Governor,

MINHAJ ALAM I A S

ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY

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Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport).

Sub-section (4) of section 40 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides that "*The State Government may, by notification, require any person to declare to the Chief Wild Life Warden or the authorized officer any animal or animal article or trophy (other than a musk of a musk deer or horn of a rhinoceros) or salted or dried skin derived from an animal specified in Schedule I in his control, custody or possession in such form, in such manner, and within such time, as may be prescribed.*"

The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its judgment dated 24/10/2025 in WP(C) No.11074/2019 & WP(C) No. 27187/2019 observed that *the State Government is at liberty to issue a fresh notification, in terms of Section 40(4) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, for conferring the immunity envisaged under the said provision, to persons or class of persons envisaged under the statutory provision*.

Rule 35 of the Kerala Wildlife (Protection) Rules, 1978 prescribes the form, manner and time to declare the animal articles and trophies as specified in sub-section (1) of section 40 of the said Act. When the said rules came into force on 13th June, 1978, there was a specific time limit of thirty days from the date of commencement of the said rules for the declaration of animal articles and trophies. Subsequently, as per rules issued by notification under G.O.(Ms) No.55/86/FE&WLD dated 19th June, 1986 and published as S.R.O.No.1024/86 in the Kerala Gazette No. 26 dated 1st July, 1986, a three months time limit for

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declaration was given to the persons who were in the control, custody or possession of any animal article or trophy, from the date of publication of the notification. Later, as per rules issued by notification under G.O.(Ms) No.42/91/F&WLD dated 28th May, 1991 and published as S.R.O.No.842/91 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.763 dated 17th June, 1991, a time limit was given to make a declaration on or before the 30th day of September, 1991, from the date of publication of the notification, for declaration of wild animal article or trophy. The cut off date to make such a declaration expired on 30th September, 1991. Similarly, under sub-rule(2) of rule 2 of the Declaration of Wildlife Stock Rules, 2003, a period of one hundred and eighty days was given to the public for the declaration of any wild animal article or trophy from the date of publication of such rules.

In the above circumstances, the Government have decided to give one more chance to persons or class of persons to declare the control, custody or possession of any animal article or trophy with them.

The notification is intended to achieve the above object.

PUBLISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRESSES
AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 2026

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